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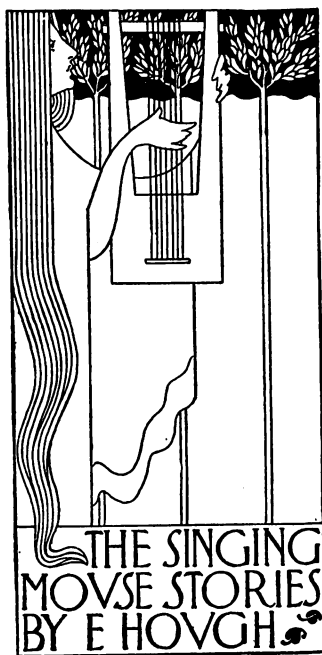
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Such an one is E. Hough, whose visions, entitled "The Singing Mouse Stories," have been published by the Forest and Stream Company. Mr. Hough has a pretty fancy, whose exercise is a perpetual pleasure to him; he has a quick ear for the voices of nature, and is alert in observing her changing moods, which he notes for the benefit of duller mortals. The book is bound in green buckram, with cover stamp (which we reproduce) in gold.



Cover Stamp
by
Will Bradley

NEW NOVELS.

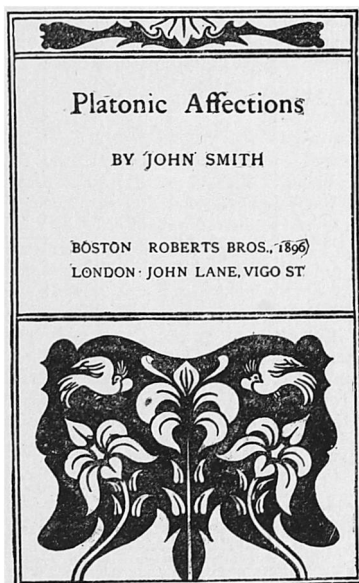
Among recent romances are three of English parentage, all treating of love from their different points of view. The most dashing of the trio is, undoubtedly, "A Lady of Quality," by Frances Hodgson Burnett, in which the author sets herself a task she executes but lamely. She would represent not only the costumes and habits of the age of Addison and Steele, a task comparatively easy, but revive the fashion of speech and the somewhat robust morals of the period also, a feat for which the author is quite incompetent. When Mrs. Burnett talks of brocades and laces, diamonds and pearls, she is in her element, but she fails in reproducing the spirit of the day she paints, and strives by the use of coarse speech to atone for the absence of the real flavor of strength and vitality that made the work of Fielding and Smollet acceptable.

Mrs. Burnett's story is not dull; it bristles with action from beginning to end. Clorinda is a sumptuous piece of flesh and blood, but nothing more, and the plot is a good one of its kind.

The publishers of the book, the Scribners, would have done well to have remembered the taste of the "Lady of Quality," and given the binding something of that richness of color she so much affected, instead of the rather painful green and white, and ugly emblazonment of gilt. They partly make up for this lack by the niceness of their type; a good point, which is followed by the Roberts Brothers in their setting of "Effie Hetherington," by Robert Buchanan. This is not like Mrs. Burnett's novel, the record of a triumphant beauty, but of a modern Lilith who

charms men to their undoing. The hero of this story, for there is no heroine, properly speaking, is a poor Scotch laird, Douglas O'Douglas, on whose head is heaped all the misery that a misplaced and unrequited love can inflict, and to whom there comes no reward, save that gained by self-sacrifice; too good a man to be wrecked by Effie, who is as soulless as Undine. She is well offset by the honesty and straightforwardness of her rival, the Lady Bell. The chiefest charm of the book will be found in the description of the celebration of Halloween in the castle, with its local songs and games, and in the bits of Scotch ballads that form the headings of the chapters. These are all unfamiliar and delightful, as are also the occasional ballads introduced in the text.

The last of the trio is a tale entitled "Platonic Affections," by a writer who chooses to masquerade under the name of John Smith. Truth to tell, there is nothing particularly interesting in the story of Devon, for the



*Title Page
by
Aubrey
Beardsley*

characters are essentially commonplace and its conclusion is the usual one in Platonic romances. It varies only in the fact that these Platonic lovers make the experiment of marriage, at a time when the gentleman has what he fondly believes to be a seared heart, and therefore dead to love, and the lady is in a mood to acquiesce in whatever fate has in store for her. Save the design on the cover of the book, which is reproduced on the title-page, there is no attempt at ornament in the binding.

TOM GROGAN.

In his latest novel, F. Hopkinson Smith has given his public a surprise, in presenting it with a heroine whom it will never meet in polite society. Before this, Mr. Smith's always-picturesque characters, if not all they should be, were, at the worst, vagabonds with some remnants of good breeding still clinging about them; but now he has chosen a woman who is an Irish stevedore, a most incongruous combination, and has endowed her with certain heroic qualities; such as indomitable courage, honor, and generosity beyond the common.

"Tom Grogan" is an unusual, but not impossible, woman, and the record of her struggle with the labor unions, and triumphant victory over